CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1566
2 February 1999

Original: ENGLISH

Proposal by the President
on the programme of work for the 1999 session of the CD

The Conference on Disarmament takes the following decisions:

1. To re-establish, for the duration of its 1999 session, the Ad hoc Committee under agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. These arrangements could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1999 session.

2. To re-establish, for the duration of its 1999 session, the Ad hoc Committee under item 1 of the agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1999 session.

3. That the Presidency, taking into account the statement (CD/1500) made by the President of the Conference at the 791st plenary meeting on 26 March 1998, and the statement (CD/1548) made by the President at the 802nd plenary meeting on 11 August 1998, shall continue to pursue intensive consultations and to seek the views of its Members on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with agenda item 1, entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", taking into consideration all proposals and views in this respect, and present early and regular reports on the outcome of these consultations, including at the end of each Presidency.

4. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

5. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to anti-personnel landmines taking into account, inter alia, developments outside the Conference.

6. To re-appoint a Special Coordinator under agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

7. In implementing these decisions, the Special Coordinators shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future, and present early and regular reports on the outcome of their consultations throughout the session.

8. The taking of these decisions contained in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 does not prejudge the positions of delegations on, or the eventual establishment of, further subsidiary bodies on the issues identified, but reflects agreement to advance the Conference's work with a view to reaching consensus. This decision is also taken without prejudice to the rights of Members of the Conference to move forward with positions and proposals already made or to be put forward in the future.

9. The Conference also decides to re-appoint Special Coordinators on the Review of its Agenda, the Expansion of its Membership and its Improved and Effective Functioning. These Special Coordinators, in discharging their duties and functions, will take into account all proposals and views, as well as future initiatives. The Conference requests these Special Coordinators to report to it before the conclusion of its 1999 session.